

Men's Volleyball 2009: Season in Review

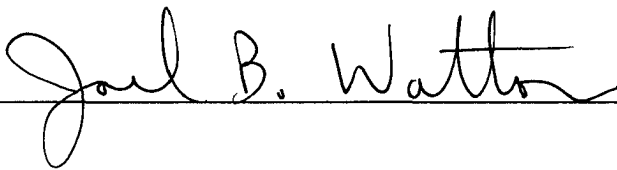
An Honors Thesis (HONRS 499)

by

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Abstract 2009

In Spring 2009, I followed the Ball State Men's Volleyball program's season, and accompanied the team on their road matches across the country. At the time, I was working for a sports media television program, and was providing the station with necessary background highlights. At the end of the season, I was approached by a parent, who asked me what I planned to do with all of the footage. It was after this conversation that I decided to give back to the program and develop a video that breaks down the entire season by matches and key players within the match. The entire season is highlighted from footage I took, or footage the team used to analyze plays.

This video is done completely off of the season statistics. I have included my statistics spreadsheet that I used as well as a copy of the DVD of the entire work.

Acknowledgements

- I would like to thank Coach Joel Walton for advising me through this project. He was extremely helpful in providing additional film and feedback as to what he would like to see.
- I would like to thank Mr. Pheister for providing me with the idea for this project. He was the one who originally approached me.
- I would like to thank the men's program for giving me the opportunity to follow their season and accept me as part of the group.
- I would like to thank Mike Stevens, Alex Kartman, and the Digital Corps for their continuing technical support on my video.
- I would like to thank JD Gasparovic for his help in every aspect of this project. His aid and encouragement has been invaluable to me throughout this past semester.

Author's Statement

This project I have undertaken is a snapshot of what my junior and senior have looked like—entire months of long bus rides, loud arenas, scratchy hotel blankets, and not a second's rest. I spent the entire spring of 2009 on the road with the Ball State Men's Volleyball program. I served as their videographer. I would use the film I captured on the road to add content to the live sports show I was a part of. However, at the end of the year, the sports show was over, and I was still traveling with the team. I needed a higher purpose for my footage.

It was after talking with one of the parents that I decided to use my video for this project. It served multiple purposes. On one end, I would be required to go beyond my basic video editing skills into something more complex—instead of the small three minute highlight reels I would compile every week. This would require outside research, knowledge of the sport, and more advanced editing skills.

The other purpose this project would serve was the simple idea of giving something back to the coaches and the team. They provided me with meals, a spot on the bus, and a (female) roommate in the hotel with the team. It was such a good experience to have, and I wanted to show my gratitude.

My daily reflective statements guide you through my daily processes. I attempted to include explanations of the procedures of my work where necessary. At the beginning of the 2009 season, I didn't know much about the sport of volleyball. By the end of my project, I knew more than any analyst we have on our media staffs. In my daily reflections, I also tried to express any new knowledge of the sport I gained through watching the film and dissecting it and looking for good plays. Looking back through my reflections, I was able to gain a better understanding of just how much my knowledge base grew. Overall, my daily reflections served as a guide through the processes I used to create my final project. It connected my goals that I mentioned above to the video.

Through this project, and through my efforts in the past year, I have been able to gain a deeper understanding (and appreciation) of the complexities of the sport, as well as a true appreciation for complex video editing. By the end of my project, I was able to look at a play and judge the quality and effectiveness with which it was carried out. I saw first hand just how rigorous and demanding volleyball can be. Like the sport of swimming, when done in a competitive nature, not simply for recreation, it's challenging and difficult. I also gained insight into the inner workings of low-budget collegiate sports. The money restraints and NCAA regulations makes it challenging for coaches to provide the best opportunities for their players.

On the production end, my knowledge of video editing grew immensely. Since I was not a telecommunications major, I had no classes on how to navigate Final Cut Pro. Instead, everything was learned on a need-to-know basis. I would learn something new about the program when that particular part of the program was giving problems. Necessary skills were acquired through trial and error. There are things I learned in the end that I wish I had learned in the beginning to make things go easier and smoother. In my opinion, for not having any formal Final Cut Pro training, the project turned out very nice.

The final product is being sent out to families of the 2009 team. Many teams have someone who does this for them. However, since the volleyball program's budget does not allow this, this is not something the team gets often. It also might get used for prospective recruits. I wanted my project to have some significance to it, and be useful and helpful to someone. So far, my project has managed to be more than a file in the library. My efforts and semesters of work have proven to be useful.

Monday, July 13, 2009

Stats Spreadsheet

Today I went through the season's statistics and broke down the season match by match. The goal of today's task was to separate the stats in order to pick out key players for each match, based on total points scored, blocks (solo and assists), aces, etc. I also paid attention to Ethan's setting and Billy's digging numbers.

There were a couple matches, Penn State at home and Ohio State in MIVA finals, that were extremely painful to watch. I wanted to forget them and throw out the film altogether. But I wanted to show my confidence in the team, and felt by omitting matches would not accomplish that. I wonder if Joel would mind if I chose Termion as my key player for Penn State—good job on that marriage proposal!

People always say that stats can be extremely misrepresenting, but I feel that these numbers really tell a story of the season. I could trace Sprague's improvement throughout the season, McCarthy's battle with injuries, J.D.'s absence due to mono, and the way the team struggled to pull it all together as the season went on. I realized, however, that a lot of these stats would be hard explained if I had not known what was going on with the team outside of matches. From a third party observer, it looks like the team just wasn't doing well at points, but I know better... I know the factors that went into those sometimes painful-looking statistics. I think that's an important part of any analyst's job—reading what's *behind* the statistics. If the analyst can't present the story behind the statistics, he/she will present misleading statistics.

Friday, August 7, 2009

Started the Video—Team Bios

Today I finally got my act together and got myself into the teleplex. I went in with the only goal in mind is to put some things down on the timeline. I got there at about 2:30, and didn't leave until 6:30 when I left for work.

I started out looking through the spreadsheet and finding my tapes from the season to match the stats from my spreadsheet. My aim was to find highlights from the footage I got that matched the story of what the stats said. For example, the first match I looked at was George Mason. I was trying to find highlights of Marcus Imwalle tearing up the court, since he was the one player I had listed as a key player for that match. He had seventeen kills on the night, and I wanted to show footage of that, since that was the story of the night.

I will use this time to describe the process of what goes on when I do this editing of my footage: All of my camera is done on a little mini tape, which holds roughly 90 minutes of footage. When I go into the teleplex, I have to ingest the tapes into the computer—which I do through a tape deck attached to a computer and a television. Once the footage is in my computer, I can cut it up and edit any way I like. Since I am somewhat of a perfectionist, this is normally the part that takes me hours to do.

When I started to ingest my footage, I realized that it wasn't going to work. For some odd reason, my computer program, Final Cut, kept interrupting the process and stopping the footage, so that I could never get what I wanted. I was getting very frustrated, between that obstacle, and not being able to find some of my footage, I decided to save that middle chunk of the video for later.

Instead, I focused on the beginning introduction. I want to have an introduction with video clips and a title page, which I haven't added anything but the graphics of the title page yet. However, I included the teammates' pictures, as well as the coaches and support staff. I included a graphic with their names, and any achievements they have earned throughout their career to date. That is where I found my challenge. I

wanted to recognize everybody on the team. They all deserved it, but some simply just had more accolades than others. I felt that way especially between J.D. Gasparovic and Lee Meyer. J.D. was given All-American, first team All-MIVA, Freshman of the Year, and MIVA Player of the Week. On the other hand, Lee started in three matches total. I was able to put down his career high statistics, but I had no big award like J.D. did. When the two were right next to each other, it was quite a stark contrast.

I am currently in the search for an awesome bed song to put in the background beneath this part of the video. I actually just had a stroke of genius and found what I hope to be the perfect song! I will most likely find a section of the score from Remember the Titans to add. Next step is to complete the introduction and start on the main content of the piece.

Saturday, August 8, 2009

Finishing the Intro

Today my goal was to finish my introduction completely, and hopefully start working on the content of the video. I finished the first part of my goal. The introduction is a good three minutes long, and includes brief highlights of some good plays throughout the season. Then I went in to finish up the graphics of each player. I tweaked a few things here and there to get them how I want them.

I finally found the bed song I wanted to use—"Ladies and Gentlemen," by Saliva. I felt that this song was extremely fitting for the team. The song is supposed to get an audience prepped and pumped up for the rest of the band's performance. In a sense, the team is comparable to a band performing on stage. The match against UCLA drew a record breaking 3500 spectators, and it seemed as if everyone was there to watch a performance. The crowd wanted to see a show, and they received one. A song about pumping up an audience for a performance seems fitting for this team.

At the completion of the introduction, I will have committed a little over eight hours to sitting in the teleplex editing a three minute segment. While some of the skills needed to edit video are not that complex, the entire process is simply very time consuming. I have come to the realization that, in order to be a really effective producer, being a perfectionist is almost a necessity. It is very easy to spend thirty minutes on one little detail until it is considered perfect. I have been known as a perfectionist to the extreme, which means I am, and will be spending a lot of time in the teleplex.

Tuesday, August 11, 2009

Beginning the Body Content

Today I moved on to the content of my piece. However, I wanted to outline each match before I started diving in and putting in the actual video. I wanted to create a skeleton of the body, one might say. When I talked with Joel as to what we wanted in the video, we talked about creating a title page for each match. So that's what I used as my outline for the body. I created a full page graphic for each match, including the opposing team names, the date, and the logos for each team. I had some trouble figuring out the layout of the graphics. I wanted the name of the teams to be the most prominent on the screen, but that meant that I had to create two separate graphics; one for the team names and one for the date. This allowed me to format the print exactly to where I wanted them both to be. I was able to move around the date and the team names to accommodate the team logos.

Since I never had any classes in the telecommunications department, all of my skills, and everything I have learned, is a result of observation and my own discovery. Many of the things I am doing now, I am doing for the first time. So it wasn't until I was doing this part of the project, and thinking about what exactly I wanted to include, when I realized that what I was doing was playing the part of a storyteller. While I am not telling a story through words, the video I choose to include, the statistics I choose to add, and the video and statistics I choose to leave out, are all part of my role as a storyteller. And even more, what I do choose to add and leave out has the ability to alter the storyline of the video. For example: if I highlight only the great plays, that will give the impression that the season was always going well, and the guys were always making fantastic plays and working well together. However, that's not the full story. This year was challenging for the team, and they saw many ups and downs.

But then, while I was thinking about this narrative bias, my little English major voice spoke up in the back of my mind. What is my purpose for this video? My intent is not to speak from a third person unbiased perspective. This video is going to go out to

the families and to upcoming recruits. If anything, this is more of a persuasion piece, and I *should* highlight the high points. Why would a coach want to show a possible recruit the low points of the season, and why he doesn't want to come play at Ball State? That just wouldn't make any sense!

Please excuse my rambling stream of thoughts. It seems that I always have so many ideas rolling around about this project, and it's a mad rush for me to get them all on paper before they escape my mind!

Wednesday, August 12, 2009

Finishing Logos

Today I didn't really want to start anything brand new, so I had a somewhat shorter day in the teleplex today. My main goal was to finish my graphic skeleton of the body. I finished putting in the logos for the rest of the matches, but knowing me, I wasn't completely happy with everything that I had in my timeline. So I spent the next thirty minutes or so tweaking everything that I wasn't completely satisfied with.

What I would really like to do is coordinate, in the introduction, the stresses in the bed music with any time the ball makes contact with a Ball State player, or during player introductions, when the video switches to the next player. This was my original intent, but it proved a *lot* harder to do than I thought. That is the goal for tomorrow: figure out how to coordinate all of that within my video. Headaches are sure to ensue!

Saturday, August 15, 2009

It's amazing how time consuming layering graphics can be. It is going to take a lot longer than I thought to do all of this. For each match, there are at least two key players. For each key player (minus Billy), there are at least 5 graphics. Then I go through each screen and move around the graphics to where I want them. Meaning... it's a really big time consumer. And since I am somewhat of a perfectionist, I had to make sure everything was just perfect.

Since I am not an actual tcom student, and was rather just adopted into the program, I still make some little errors that someone at my level should not be making. I learn everything piecemeal—a little bit here, a little bit there. I learn what I need to learn when I mess up. For example, I learned the other day how to change the color of my graphics and how to put them in my view finder where I want them. I learned it because I had to. I never took any class that taught me all of the things I should know. I do have several people to thank for giving me the Final Cut knowledge that I have acquired to date. James Rider was the one who originally taught me the very basic of basics. Mike Stevens took things a step further and taught me things here and there that I needed to know. He's my trouble shooting guy—the one that tells me how to fix all my screw ups.

So my student teaching is starting to pick up... and I'm finding that I want to come in to the editing suites less and less the more my teaching responsibilities pile on. This is exactly why I should have completed more of this project before my student teaching started.

Sunday, August 30, 2009

I'm FINALLY back in the teleplex! I know I should have been in here more than I was, but my work schedule for that every other weekend is a killer. So when I get these free weekends, I want to relax! After school, I'm so tired from dealing with these little kiddies I just want to, again, relax! But I need to get my butt into gear and really start buckling down if I want to get this project done!

Not much different to report on this scene. Last time I was in the editing suites, I got about 2 matches done—I did the graphic layering and added the video editing and everything. This time around, I'm breaking it up into chunks—this is such a massive video that I have to take it one step at a time. Right now, I'm going to add all the graphics. My next step will be to add all the video. The final step will be to tweek all of the graphics to exactly how I want them.

Today, I made some serious headway. After 4 hours, I finished about eight matches worth of graphics. While I know I have roughly twenty to go, it's a start!

September 18, 2009

Today I spent the entire evening in the teleplex. What college student can honestly say they spend their entire Friday night slaving away in a little room on campus? I know that next week, maybe even the week after, I won't be able to work on this much because of my birthday. Tonight was more of the same thing—more graphic layering. I'm really getting sick of the same layout the entire time, but I would rather have something consistent than something flashy. The way these guys play is flashy enough—it's such a spectator sport, and I don't have to dress up any of my graphics to make it interesting to watch.

Tonight I finished about another five match graphics or so. It's a Friday night, so I'm not going to dedicate my entire existence to this tonight. That will come closer to crunch time. I hate that I'm procrastinating so much, and I know I'm going to regret that I'm doing it, but I want to enjoy my senior semester if I can.

October 10, 2009

Okay, so I really need to start getting serious about this. For all that Joel has done with taking me with the team on road trips and being so accommodating, I really owe it to him to give him a quality product. I feel like I am letting my Senioritis get in the way. I never suffered from it in my high school years, but it seems to strike at random times this semester.

Today I got about two thirds of the way through my graphics. I really apologize for how boring these journal entries are while I'm doing these, but there's really not that much to report while I'm doing this. I'm just trying to work as efficiently and quickly as possible. I have a feeling that I am going to need as much time as possible to get the video in.

October 24, 2009

Today I finished my graphics. However, I am constantly finding spots where I need to touch things up. I would rather fix the little things as I go along—instead of having one massive mess when it comes down to crunch time. So today, my chore was to go through and fix everything and make it exactly what I want.

It became a lot more time consuming than I would have wanted. When I got one round through my video, I took a look at the clock, and three hours had passed. I realized just how skilled those employees of major programs must be to make those sports packages you see right after you come out of commercial of highlights of the game as of yet. I feel like I'm making this look hard (which I'm sure I am). Maybe one day it will come more naturally to me. I thought that throughout the course of my project, I would gain a mastery of this video editing software, but it seems that everyday I run into some obstacle, and everyday I find out something new, and I end up feeling my way blindly for a while.

I was able to finish all of my little nit-picky graphics and my re-editing, but it took a major chunk out of my free time. But it's all right—my leisure time can take a blow for the team! I am currently editing in the teleplex. In the facility, there are about ten separate, remote editing suites. The rooms have dimmers and no windows. Every time I go in there, I come out and it feels like I have been holed up in there for years! Seasons change, years go by... and I am completely oblivious in my little cave that is the teleplex...

Okay, so I'm getting dramatic. It's not that bad. Normally.

November 8, 2009

It's November already! I know I shouldn't be panicking yet, but I'm to the point where I'm reviewing my big LAMP unit for my student teaching, and I feel like grading projects, creating lesson plans, and editing websites are my life right now. I haven't completely broken down yet, but I know that if I don't start really buckling down on this it's going to come back and bite me. I really wish I had finished this over the summer, because I hate having that pall over my head all semester; it's my senior semester and I should've planned a little better so that I could thoroughly enjoy the semester and not have this little nagging voice in the back of my head, telling me I can't fully rest until I finish my project. What a pain...

I am just now starting in on my video. I personally think it's really fun to go back and look at and analyze old game footage. Now, it's a little different considering I'm not actually IN the game footage. Nevertheless, it is entertaining (and very time consuming) to relive old memories, road matches, and home matches every once in a while.

I thought the hard part would be what us tcom officiandos call ingesting the tape. I take my tape, put it into a tape deck connected to a television and my computer, and copy it from the tape to my hard drive.

I found out that the actual ingesting wasn't that time consuming. For some players, say JD and Todd and Sprague, I found footage right away. However, players like Billy and Ethan proved to be a little more difficult to find. I could find a play with Todd pretty much right away. Then I would get the notion that things would go smoothly and easily because of how quickly I found Todd's clip. But I would still be looking for Billy twenty minutes later. It's not to say that Billy always did that poorly, it was simply the fact that Billy's key plays were fewer and farther between because of the nature of his position. I was able to ingest six matches today!

Six down... 25 to go! Wow... I still have a lot to do. I'm starting to feel the time crunch.

November 14, 2009

So today I hit my first major frustration. I remembered while creating highlight packages for my television program last year, that I had some tapes with dirty camera heads. There was nothing I could have done besides try to salvage some little pieces of my video. There are a couple spots in my video that may seem to jump a little—the timecode would break and the tape would stop ingesting, so I had to improvise. That is one thing I've become very good at!

I got the majority of my road matches done—simply so I could reminisce over the good times with good friends. My favorite road trip memory this past season had to have been when the team went to Tops for dinner after the Rutgers-Newark match in downtown Newark, New Jersey.

About twelve of us were sitting at one table, with McCarthy and someone at one side, myself, Joel, Furn, JD and Lee on the other side. I remember ordering some salad, and realizing why we were eating there—all of the portions were HUGE. Perfect for the guys on the team, but a little too much for Kim. I remember McCarthy and another team member playing with their food in the corner, and Joel and Furn telling us stories of teams from the past, and their road trip experiences.

Even though the trip to New Jersey and Virginia was long, it was one of my most memorable experiences while I was attending Ball State. The same could be said for my trip to Chicago with the team, and the countless other memories with them. Needless to say, I have a lot to be thankful for.

November 28, 2009

Less than a month to complete this project. That also means I have less than a month to complete my student teaching. Things are starting to get very tight. Last week was Thanksgiving, and I was being pushed VERY hard to find a job and start applying for as many positions as possible. I am very afraid that with all that I have taken on this semester, finding a job will get pushed back to the back of my priorities, when I know it should be right up there at the top of my list. Luckily I was able to work on some of my job applications while I was down in Florida for break.

What I realized was probably a big oversight on my part was the fact that my project cannot simply be done anywhere. I have to be on campus, and have the proper technologies at my disposal. It would have been great to have the Final Cut program on my laptop, but the program is over a hundred dollars, or so I have heard. I am most unwilling to spend that amount of money to purchase the program. I'll take the little added stress that will go along with not having it right at my fingertips.

Today I got several more matches done. I still keep finding some bad tapes here and there. I found some tapes where they shouldn't be, and some that I just royally screwed up on—the picture quality stinks or I was just distracted very easily and wasn't focusing on the match. For the most part, I was able to get everything I needed. I put some matches off simply because I could not figure out how to get the tape going, but that is an obstacle I'll deal with later, when I'm busier and under even more stress. This sounds like a pretty terrible plan, but that's all I have.

As I look through some of these tapes, I get a growing sense of admiration for the sport of volleyball. When I was filming it, I was more focused on reading the play and predicting where the ball was going to go, so that my camera would be there when the ball was. It is easy to track my camera work improvement from the beginning of the season to the very end—it improved dramatically! In the beginning, some of my shots were unsteady and not quite with it. By the end of the season, for the most part, I was right on cue with anticipating the play and adjusting accordingly.

Most of the time, JD Gasparovic will come in with me and help me decide which plays would be best to use. I am a swimmer—I focus on my race, and nobody else's. Besides how I pace myself, I don't really have to worry about any sort of strategy. My technique is in my stroke. The differences between the two sports are glaring. Volleyball is such a team sport. A play won't work if all of the players aren't working together as one cohesive unit. Todd can't get the good attack if Billy doesn't pass it well. If there's a slight miscommunication between Ethan and one of the attackers, the attack won't be effective. For swimming, it doesn't matter what my teammates are doing—that's not going to affect my performance.

December 7, 2009

This is seriously the worst time to be sick. I have come down with a really bad cold, and didn't go in to edit like I should have all weekend. I am down to the wire, and I still have a lot to do. I just presented my showcase portfolio today, and have passed my student teaching. I'm coasting on that now. So now it's time to really buckle down and get this done.

Today I'm continuing to add in my video. I have hit some major frustrations. I have certain matches that I just can't find for the life of me! I have absolutely no clue what has happened to those tapes. And I feel terrible asking Joel for the tapes, because this is my project, and I shouldn't be putting the burden on him and using his game film for something that is supposed to be filmed by me. Now, there were certain matches I was unable to attend, and certain matches I wasn't filming at that point in time, and that's understandable and excusable. Losing Quincy at home, inexcusable.

The frustration is building...

December 10, 2009

So I am almost done with the video, per say. I know I will have lots of little details to smooth out, but I am now in the process of getting some MIVA footage from Joel, and trying to find someway to get either an HD camera or an HD tape deck. The deck is supposedly broken, but I can import video onto my computer straight from my camera. I have the camera reserved for next Tuesday, and it will be the first time I will have taken a look at that footage since I filmed it last April.

I have learned so much about the sport since I have begun this project. JD will sit with me while we are watching and answer my questions as we watch. It amazes me how instinctive reactions have to be in volleyball. I asked JD all of the things he has to consider when he's reading the other team. It's incredible to me that someone can hold so many scenarios in his/her mind, weigh them, decide upon a decision, and act upon it, all in the matter of split seconds. Based upon this, volleyball players should be some of the smartest players on campus. Should be.

I tried to export my movie tonight, and for some reason, it kept coming up with the phrase "General Error." It wouldn't tell me what the error was, and I had no idea how to fix it. I went through all of my settings, but I don't know exactly what is wrong with it. We will try to get some more help tomorrow when there are people around. The time is currently 1am.

December 11, 2009

Today I didn't go to school, simply because I was so sick and so tired. Walking home at one in the morning, not getting any sleep, and being sick to boot, is not conducive to a good work day. I went into the teleplex to work, and simply could not get this movie exported as a video. I wanted Joel to be able to see it, but I was struggling, majorly. I called Alex, and he told me that apparently, I was making my video in Europe, using European settings. Oops!

So we got it to work for the most part. Problem now is that I can no longer use the teleplex. The technology in the lab is different and newer than that of the teleplex, and I can't go back to using the older version. I wanted to avoid this, because now I have to abide by the opening and closing times of all of the labs on campus, whereas the Honors College granted me access to the teleplex whenever I wanted.

I was able to finally get a copy of the thesis to Joel. I sent it along with JD to his office. I am still in the process of transferring files from his computer to my project, and it's a pain in the butt, because the file is so big that it won't all fit at once, I have to do it one match at a time.

December 12, 2009

Today I spent a little bit of time in the Robert Bell lab. I wanted to go through and fix my graphics. Since the actual lab wasn't open, I couldn't get the help I may have wanted for my project.

I spent about an hour fixing the little details and discrepancies in my project. Not much to report. Slowly, but surely, I am beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel.

December 15, 2009

Crunchtime!!! I was able to get a hold of the HDV camera, and man, is that thing cool! I never really thought that HD video was that much better than regular video, but it really has made a difference in the quality of the picture. It is too bad that there is only one HDV camera available for student checkout. I was only able to get it once for this project. What a shame, because it was pretty cool.

However, it was a pain in the butt to ingest that film, because I had to fast forward and rewind the film, just like on a VHS tape. It was time consuming, but really high quality film.

I'm really starting to get stressed out over this—I just want to be done and complete.

December 17, 2009

As of right now, I am almost done. I have to go through and find some missing files, and touch up a couple of things that Joel would like, but then everything should be golden. It took me a long time to get find some of the video, and I think I have most of it the way I want it. I'm almost there!

I know that most tcom projects are not this complicated and hard to complete, but this is a pretty extensive project done by someone with minimal training. I'm not trying to make excuses as to why things are getting so far behind, and I know that my procrastination is really only a fault of my own, but I don't think I've done too poorly.

December 18, 2009

Today I thought I would be done and finished, but that wasn't the case. I am having a couple difficulties with the video, but for the most part, I have everything complete. I went through and made some of the graphics longer and finalized the video, making it "broadcast safe" and everything, and that took me about five hours to complete.

I called Joel and will have it completed and turned in hopefully early on Monday. I don't want all this hassle anymore. I will turn in what I have, then for professional reasons, go through with Joel and find the spots I want to improve upon.

This will be sent out to families, so I want to make sure I have everything just perfect, but I have time constraints, and I need to turn something in to get my degree and, consequently, my teaching license. But we're *almost* there.

Final Project Reflection

When I look back on my project, I have many negatives and positives to talk about. That, I believe, is the beauty of being a member of the Teachers College—we are bred to be reflective practitioners. However, it has made me very critical of myself. Some might not consider that a bad thing.

I first proposed this project back in July. I am just now getting around to finishing it two weeks before it was due. I could have easily taken the summer and really cracked the whip and gotten it done. Procrastination has never really been a habit of mine. I'm an honors student, for crying out loud! I was born and bred with good study/work habits. I hate having that cloud hanging over my head for a long period of time, when I know there is some task or project I have to complete. I'm not quite sure why I put this project off for so long, but I'm really regretting that strategy at the moment. However, I still promise myself and Coach that I will have an exceptional final product for to turn in. I owe him and the team that much.

Continuing this critical eye, I feel that parts of my project could be more consistent, and I am sure there were other programs I could have used to make this look more professional looking; especially my graphics. However, I have the feeling that it is more than acceptable the way it is, and I really want to get something to these families.

I also wish that I had not been so unorganized in my labeling and storing when I took this film. I ended up being without several matches, including the second of the three rounds of MIVA. I really feel bad that I don't have the close up action-like

footage of those, especially when I was there. That makes me feel as if I took advantage of Joel's and Furn's hospitality.

However, I feel that I definitely had some strengths as well. Because I was producing this for more than just a display in the library, I had the dedication and willingness to make this a real quality project. This video is being sent out to parents—I want it to be perfect. While I know that my video is not perfect, I was able to make it as close as I could to being perfect. Perfectionism, in this case, was my friend.

Another strength of mine was my ability to adapt and improvise with whatever problem came my way. Throughout the semester, I hit many roadblocks and frustrations along the way, but I always found some way to complete my work. I used the resources available to me, and my own problem solving abilities.

Overall, I am very pleased with the product, but not pleased at my methods of tackling the project. This should have been done a lot earlier and a lot quicker than I did it. I really hope this project will benefit the men's volleyball program, and I hope I have been able to repay Joel, Furn, Brad, and the rest of the team for all they have done for me.

